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ton is especially suggestive. One of the best portions of the book is the chapter devoted to The Antagonists of the Oligarchy, *i. e.*, the Levellers and Communists, the section on the latter being especially new and valuable.

In Cromwell's Political Principles we have nothing particularly new, yet the material is so arranged as to give, together with some previous paragraphs, a strikingly clear picture of the progress of the Protector's political thought; of his conservatism and his opposition to the doctrine of "The Law of Nature" in the agitation of 1645 and 1646; of the truth that "Oliver came very slowly to the knowledge of his abilities." In general, the estimate of Cromwell's relation to political thought is accurate, except that here again all economic considerations are left out.

There is in Chapter VIII. a very satisfactory examination of the new religious bodies—the Millenarians, the Baptists and the Quakers, and of their attitude toward the Protectorate. The close affiliation between the Baptists and the Quakers in the early stages of the Quaker movement is clearly shown.

On the whole, the book is a valuable addition to English historical writing, although it contains several portions that ought to be critically examined before their conclusions are accepted, and although it leaves economic considerations entirely out of view. It is stimulating to thought and the style is, on the whole, clear and spirited. The notes are short but abundant, point the way to a great mass of material, and form one of the best features of the book. This material which, although mostly known to students, has never before been grouped with reference to this subject, has been, in general, accurately sifted and critically used.

We should say, therefore, that the greatest value of the work lay in collecting in a fairly exhaustive way the original material on the subject; in sifting this material and in grouping it in correct proportion; and in correctly showing the sequence in, and relations between, the separate facts connected with the democratic thought of the seventeenth century.

FRANK STRONG.

*La Formation de la Prusse Contemporaine.* Par GODEFROY CAVAIGNAC. Tome Second: Le Ministère de Hardenberg, Le Soulèvement; 1808–1813. (Paris: Hachette et Cie. 1898. Pp. vii, 517.)

THE earlier volume of M. Cavaignac's work was devoted to the period of the ministry of Stein. Stein had laid out a scheme of reform which was designed to transform Prussia, but, like Turgot's reforms in France, this gained its chief importance rather from what it suggested of future possibilities than from what was actually accomplished by its author. To take up and in some measure complete Stein's reforms was the work of Hardenberg. M. Cavaignac finds that Hardenberg's policy embraced three chief points: to accomplish an economic revolution whereby individual effort should be emancipated, to substitute for the

predominance of the great feudal holders the power of the middle classes, and to replace the system of "decentralized oligarchy" by a system of centralization on the French model. The present volume covers the period down to the middle of 1813. It includes, therefore, the reorganization of the Prussian military system which made the war of liberation possible.

Hardenberg found two great obstacles in his way, the feebleness and vacillation of the king, and the overzealousness of the patriotic party. The latter would have preferred an immediate national uprising against Napoleon to the slow process of building up the national strength with the idea of insuring the ultimate success of such an uprising. Frederick William III. was not the type of sovereign suited to a time so critical as that which followed Jena. In constant terror of Napoleon's disfavor on one side and of too great concessions to popular government on the other, he was a hindrance to both patriots and reformers.

Chapter II. deals with the reorganization of the national finances. The author demonstrates the falsity of the prevalent impression that these reforms were of a revolutionary character. They were rather an "adaptation" than a new creation. Much of inequality and special privilege remained, but it was from the privileged classes themselves that the principal opposition to the measures came. Curiously enough, too, a considerable section of the patriotic party opposed them because they were distinctly French in character.

Upon the question of representative government Hardenberg and Stein were in complete accord. Neither dreamed of weakening the royal authority. Stein recommended to Hardenberg the principles of Richelieu as a model,—certainly, as our author remarks, "a bad beginning for the establishment of the constitutional régime." The economic reforms for which both had been laboring had been directed against the old class distinctions, and yet now it was proposed to base whatever of national representation was to be established on those very distinctions. The national representative body was to be little more than an enlarged edition of the provincial estates, with three orders, the landed aristocracy, the burgher class and the peasantry. Its powers were to be only consultative and advisory. M. Cavaignac is writing from the point of view of a Frenchman, to whom the results of the Revolution even in its earlier phases come as a matter of course, and it is not strange that his attitude toward this extreme conservatism of the most advanced Prussian statesmen of that day is one of surprise and pity.

With the extreme patriotic party Hardenberg's relations were necessarily of a secret nature. Prussia's position in 1811 was a desperately critical one. The very existence of the state was endangered by the suspicions of Napoleon. The patriots had secret relations with England. Scharnhorst and Gneisenau were quietly carrying through those military reforms that were to make Prussia able at last to bid defiance to Napoleon. To this military reorganization M. Cavaignac devotes several chapters. He rightly appreciates the importance of the formation of the *Landwehr*

as a military measure. But he sees in it a still higher significance, for it was also a "phenomenon of social discipline." In the study of this as of the other parts of his subject he has made a thorough use of the best authorities. He has not always deemed it necessary to go to the original sources for his facts, and has freely used the standard histories like those of Häusser, Lehmann and Droysen. In the appendix he has reproduced several original documents, mostly from French sources. The book is evidently one written with the purpose of making Frenchmen better acquainted with the formation of the state which, as their chief enemy, they ought to understand; but the author has not sacrificed either historical truth or historical perspective in carrying out this purpose.

ULYSSES G. WEATHERLY.

*Modern France, 1789-1895.* By ANDRÉ LEBON. [The Story of the Nations.] (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1898. Pp. ix, 488.)

It is our impression that most readers will lay down this book with a sense of mild disappointment. The volume has a tasteful appearance, but the coarse board under the cloth is heavy, and in the new copy given by a friend to the reviewer had warped so as to split the cloth; the paper is heavily loaded, the plates, presumably new, already give a blurred impression of certain pages, and the illustrations—it is hard to imagine the service they have already rendered elsewhere. The text does not in any way compensate for the clumsiness and cheapness of the book. The translator has laboriously set down a verbal rendering of the original, and while the number of distinct Gallicisms is but small the entire contents are a witness to the truth of the Italian proverb, *Traduttore, Traditore*. A French author writing for his countrymen may go far on the road of condensation and generalization without becoming obscure, but among Englishmen and Americans it requires an expert in French history to grasp the sense of M. Lebon, as stated in many places among these pages. But we might put up with these drawbacks, with such phrases as "elective urn," "neorosis (*sic*) of the chambers," and "Nonjurant" wrested from its specific to a general meaning, with the "jurisdiction of juries," "superiority of guilty passion," "councils of discipline," "aureole of martyrdom," and other similar phrases, a harvest of which can be reaped throughout the book; from all such juxtapositions of words we might trust our mother-wit to get for us a vague meaning by means of the context, provided the labor and anxiety were worth while. But it is doubtful whether they are.

M. Lebon is probably a painstaking functionary; he appears also to be the ripe product of the over-charged programmes of the reorganized French colleges and universities. In fact on p. 365 he calls attention to his position, that of an active politician, as unfitting him for the task of a historian. He can only give "salient facts," he may not pronounce "circumstantial judgments" (whatever they may be), nor even enter into